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Press Release

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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 16 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on February 1 totaled 76.5 million cwt, 10.5 million cwt more than on hand February 1, 2009. Disappearance, at 54.5 million cwt is up from last year's 50.5 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 2.90 million cwt, down from last year's 3.20 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 73.6 million cwt, were up from the 62.8 million cwt stored on February 1, 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 5.99 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes during January, down 7.1 percent from January 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 35.2 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes to February 1, down 0.7 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 30.0 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.21 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 203 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above February 1, 2008. Potatoes in storage accounted for 53 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 3 percentage points above February 1, 2009. Potato disappearance, at 181 million cwt, was 3 percent below February 1, 2009 and down 9 percent from 2008. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.7 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2009 and 2 percent above 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 90.4 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 9 percent from the same period last year and down 15 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 17.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year and 19 percent below the same period in 2008.

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